

HCS HB 298 -- PHYSICAL THERAPY REIMBURSEMENT

SPONSOR: Lichtenegger

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Insurance Policy by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill establishes a minimum payment schedule for physical therapy services. Beginning in 2018, reimbursement to a physical therapy provider for services provided under a health benefit plan cannot be less than that minimum payment schedule. Except the minimum payment schedule does not apply when the physical therapy services are provided during a hospital inpatient setting or at an outpatient clinic, a skilled nursing facility, or through a home health benefits delivery system and the payment is made directly to the facility.

The provisions of this bill do not apply to limited benefit policies.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill will establish a minimum payment schedule for physical therapy services. Many times therapy services are reimbursed below the costs to provide such service.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Lichtenegger; Michael Gorman, Missouri Physical Therapy Association; Biagio Mazza, Elite Physical Therapy; and Phillip Smith, Peak Sport And Spine.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that this will effect our ability to negotiate payments with providers and will cause rates to go up for consumers.

Testifying against the bill was the Missouri Insurance Coalition and Americas Health Insurance Plans.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say the amendment added to the bill assures that short term and limited benefit policies do not apply to physical therapy payments.

Testifying on the bill was AFLAC.